

19 January, 2nd Sunday, Year A

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Ariah Park

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St Therese Barellean Pastoral Associate: Sr Janet Glass rsj

In our Prayers: Tracey Passlow, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel, Maxine Keshan,

For our Deceased: Gerard Gaynor, Margaret Quade, Joan Howe, Family, friends, fire victims, parishioners and community members, and those who have died tragically in recent times.

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January 25-26 Ariah Park 6.00 p.m. Sat Mass
Mass Barmedman 8.00 a.m. Temora 10.00 a.m. Sunday
Liturgy Ardlethan **9.00 a.m.** Barellean 10.00 a.m.
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Reflection

'The Lamb of God.' Jesus is the Servant of God who brings salvation to the ends of the earth. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He reveals the compassion of God who stoops down to hear the cries of those in distress.

Once every three years – in Year A – the story of Jesus' baptism is told twice. Matthew's version used on the feast itself (*last Sunday*) is followed today by John's. He describes the episode indirectly via the testimony of John the Baptist. While not stating explicitly that Jesus was baptised, the context and the reference to heavenly affirmation make it unmistakable. Remembering Jesus' baptism thus serves a triple purpose. It rounds out the Christmas season, introduces Ordinary Time's account of Jesus' public ministry, and gives us an early hint of its culmination in his suffering and death as God's servant and Chosen One. It's an event that warrants and rewards timely reflection.

Bushfire Appeal

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has requested that donations be taken up next Sunday for the bushfire victims: *"Parishes across the country will be taking up a special collection at Masses on the Australia Day weekend, with all funds to be donated to Vinnies' bushfire appeal."*

Next Sunday, because of the Appeal there will be no 50 cent Sunday.



Thank you

The crib has been put away as well as the drapes changed—thank you ever so much to those who were responsible. May God bless you.

Plenary Council

In October 2020, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council. We continue to seek the wisdom of Holy Spirit as we focus on the six themes identified by the first phase of prayer and listening. These themes invite people to consider *'How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia'*. Questionnaire forms are included in the bulletin. Completed forms can then be put on either collection plate during Mass until 9 February.

Thank you.

St Matthew's Gospel

We will spend most of the Sundays of the coming year in the company of Saint Matthew. His Gospel like the others has its own characteristics. He is writing for a Jewish audience, and so is always at pains to stress one thing: that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. He does this by reference to Jesus' teaching and miracles, and very often by quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament to show that Jesus was their fulfilment.

Prayer for Rain

Almighty and Eternal Father, we give thanks for the rain that has fallen in recent days. We continue to ask you to bestow the blessing of rain upon our parched land. Let your heavenly dew come down upon our farms, our stock and our native life. Give courage and strength to our farmers, their families and all our people. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen

Reflection

As we begin the New Year, whatever our mood or life-situation, our readings give us hope and comfort as we celebrate

Jesus Christ's life of service and ministry. In the so-called 'Servant Song', Isaiah writes of the mysterious servant of the Lord God. Christians have long identified him with Jesus, who was formed by God in the womb and sent into the world as 'the light of the nations'.

(First Reading)



Contemplative Monk

Roster 26 January

Leader: Suzanne

Reader: Mae

Minister: Bruce

Welcomer: Brenda